

Sustainable Monocacy Commission meeting
Thursday, May 27, 2021 (virtual meeting via Webex)

Members present: Councilmember Jerry Donald, Bill Allen, Andy Celmer, Charles Eirkson, Gary Magnuson, Matt Moran, Lonnie Ropp, Peter Sicilia, Kim Stewart.

Members absent: Alderman Roger Wilson, Glenn Dunham

Planning Staff: Tim Goodfellow

Guest Speaker: Hans Schmidt, Assistant Secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Office of Resource Conservation Programs

Chair Bill Allen opened the video meeting with a review of the agenda.

Charles Eirkson and Gary Magnuson requested a bullet listing /summary of the questions from the SMC that were posed to the March 2021 speaker, Dr. Kevin Sellner, be added to the March 2021 meeting minutes. Lonnie Ropp mentioned the incorrect spelling of her last name in the March 2021 meeting minutes. Lonnie motioned to accept the March 2021 meeting minutes subject to adjustment as discussed. Andrew Celmer seconded motion. Vote: 7 in favor; 1 opposed (Charles Eirkson); 1 absent (Glenn Dunham).

Tim reviewed the revised draft of the SMC's Rules of Procedures.

The SMC had unanimous consent on Charles Eirkson's proposed revision to a portion of Section 1.3 , Vacancy: "In the case of an expiration of term, a member ~~shall~~ **MAY** continue to serve until the member's successor is appointed."

Lonnie Ropp motioned (seconded by Matt Moran) to revise a portion of Section 3.1 Attendance: "Any voting member of the Commission who fails to attend at least 50% of the meetings during ~~any period of 24 consecutive months~~ **A CALENDAR YEAR (JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER)** shall be considered to have resigned."

Charles Eirkson expressed concern that meeting 6 times per year was not adequate time for the SMC to sufficiently address issues. Gary Magnuson motioned to amend a portion of Section 3.2, Regular Meetings, by adding the following: "Regular meetings shall be held **MONTHLY AND SCHEDULED ACCORDINGLY, AND CALLED AT THE JUDGEMENT OF THE CHAIR** on the 4th Thursday ~~in the months of January, March, May, July, September,~~ and the 3rd Thursday in the month of November, unless postponed to such a day and time as directed by the Chair in consultation with Staff.

Gary Magnuson discussed the possibility of voting electronically during special meetings. Tim mentioned possible complications with the quorum requirements of Section 2.1 and physical presence requirements of Section 2.2. Tim will consult with legal staff and report.

Gary Magnuson suggested adding the words “and recognized” to a portion of Section 2.2, Physical Presence Required: “In the case of a virtual meeting, a Commission member must be connected to the meeting with a functioning internet connection or telephone connection that allows the member to be heard in order to cast a vote.” **THE MEMBER MUST FIRST BE RECOGNIZED BY THE CHAIR IN ORDER TO SPEAK.**

There was unanimous consent among SMC members for this addition.

Members asked for a briefing on the FC Ethics Ordinance by the County Attorney at a future meeting.

Hans Schmidt from the Maryland Department of Agriculture presented an overview of the State’s conservation and water quality protection programs, and discussed agriculture’s role in meeting the sediment and nutrient loading reductions as required under the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Mr. Schmidt mentioned the State’s 24 Soil Conservation District Offices and their work on the ground to provide technical, financial and educational assistance to farmers for implementing soil conservation practices and installing devices and structures for agricultural operations. Mr. Schmidt reviewed the Maryland Healthy Soils Program, the Phosphorus Management Tool, and the Maryland Animal Waste Technology Fund and Program. Maryland is a national agricultural leader in water quality protection, healthy soil practices, and greenhouse gas emission reduction. The specific programs described include the following:

- Maryland Agriculture Water Quality Cost Share Program (MACS)
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Maryland Manure Transport Program
- Income Tax Stabilization Subtraction Modification
- Cover Crop Program

Tim presented an overview of the 2019 Monocacy River Management Plan, its development, and approval process by the Frederick County Council

Matt Moran shared the latest version of the SMC logo and indicated that he would email the latest draft to SMC members for comment.

Gary Magnuson stated that the river clean up that was scheduled for May 29, 2021 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled.

No public comment was received.

Gary motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:04pm

Andrew Celmer seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.

Submitted by Tim Goodfellow